

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CO, 66th CIC Group, USAREUR, APO
Attn: G-3 S. 1000

CONFIDENTIAL

24 May 1956

T. C. Hughes, Jr., JCA, US Embassy

Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz Personnel

Re: WENGER, Erich, aka WOLTERS, Aduard

1. Reference is made to sub-paragraph 5 c (2)(a) of Operational Memorandum 38/55, Hq, 66th CIC Group, USAREUR.

2. SUBJECT is a long-time member of the BfV who has been employed not as an official regularly employed BfV employee (Angestellter) or official (Beater) but as a so-called "Freie Mitarbeiter" (unofficial semi-covert employee) since at least 1951. During this period he has continuously served with the BfV's operational CE section in its various organizational forms. WENGER had previous experience in the CE field with either the former German ABWEHR or the SD, or both and possibly the GESTAPO as well, which accounts for the fact that his service with the BfV has been continuously in the CE field and for the fact that he has until now been associated with the BfV not as a regular employee but as a "Freie Mitarbeiter". As you are aware, the BfV has frequently used the "Freie Mitarbeiter" status to employ more or less capable persons with experience whose dubious backgrounds prevented the BfV from openly employing them as regular employees and risking criticism of the practice of employing such personnel.

3. In the case of WENGER, who is married and the father of children, his continued status of a "Freie Mitarbeiter" has long been a source of discontent to him. The reason for this is that he is considered to be the BfV's most capable operational CE case officer and handling agent who is turned to by less experienced, less capable BfV CE case officers for advice and guidance and who is relied upon by his immediate chief, Dr. Walter STRAUSS, BfV Department II CE chief, and Department II head, Richard GERKEN, to handle particularly difficult and sensitive cases. At the same time, despite his responsibility for advising less qualified personnel, training new personnel and handling difficult cases, he has been barred from official employment, and thus from promotion and official recognition, by his status as a "Freie Mitarbeiter". In November 1955 SUBJECT confided in me that he was considering a transfer from the BfV to service with the MAD, that he had been offered regular employment in a civilian capacity with MAD and that, although he preferred to remain with the BfV, he would leave the BfV and accept employment with MAD unless the BfV took steps to regularize his employment. My conversation with SUBJECT and with his chief, GERKEN, on this subject at that time was reported in my memo of 30 Nov 1955, file Bv-55-2862, SUBJECT as above. The referenced report also recorded that if WENGER's BfV employment could be regularized there was some possibility that he might eventually attain the position of head of the BfV's operational CE section.

4. WOLTERS has now confided in me that as a result of BfV representations in his behalf the Personnel Department of the Federal Minister Ministry has agreed to his permanent regular employment. This is his SD past, and that

CONFIDENTIAL

444-5-1-2

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 382B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH ed DD

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

retroactive to 1 Jan 1956 he has been and is a regular BfV employee (Angestellter) in the grade of TOA-3. In reply to my query as to whether he was satisfied with this grade he replied that for the present he would have to be, that SCHNUEBBERG had explained to him that the most important point has now been settled, i.e., the question of his permanent, regular employment, and that the question of increased grade should only first be taken up after some time has elapsed in his new status and everyone has finally accepted the idea of regular employment for one of his background. At such time SCHNUEBBERG will, according to WOLTERS, recommend his promotion to an official's grade, perhaps that of Regierungsrat.

5. In response to my further query as to whether the possibility existed that he might now be shortly made chief of the operational CE section WOLTERS said that for the time being, and until he achieved the grade of Regierungsrat, there seemed little possibility of it although GERKEN's still desired the change. He pointed out that in his present rank it would be inconvenient ("unbequem") since the CE section chief must also exercise authority over officials as well as employees. He also indicated that he is satisfied with his present status for the time being, will not be disposed to push for further promotion at the present time, and no longer entertains any thought of accepting employment with MAD.

6. The foregoing is provided for your information. WOLTERS, as one of the most capable BfV operational CE case officers, if not the most capable, is assigned to the RIS desk of the operational CE section and an important liaison contact of this office. When informed of his promotion he also thanked me personally for various recommendations for his permanent employment which I had made to BfV executives Herbert SCHNUEBBERG and Albert RADKE in order to add personal endorsement to his capabilities in an effort to spur them on toward persuading the Interior Ministry to permit his employment in an official status.

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS;
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED.
DOD DIR 5203.10

Control copy to:
CO, Hq, 66th CIC Group, USAREUR
Attn: Capt Sweet, In Div., S-2 Sect.

C

4-2

✓psnl-WOLTERS

CONFIDENTIAL